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Health Commissioner

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Acting Deputy Health Commissioner
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MEMORANDUM

Date: August 9th, 2019
To: Childcare Providers in Philadelphia County
From: Philadelphia Department of Public Health Immunization Program
Subject: New Influenza Vaccine Requirement for Childcare Facility Attendees

The City of Philadelphia passed a Board of Health requirement on May 16th, 2019, that affects all private and public childcare providers in Philadelphia starting on August 1st, 2019.

This regulation now requires that all children ages 6 months to 5 years of age, who attend any public or private childcare group setting, to receive one dose of a licensed influenza (flu) vaccine between August 1st and December 31st each calendar year.

Currently, child care providers must ensure that all children enrolled in their care receive all routinely recommended vaccines as detailed in the [Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule](#). The new regulation that takes effect on August 1st, 2019, upholds the existing requirement plus adds stronger enforcement for influenza vaccine.

Child care provider responsibilities include:

- ✓ Ask parents or guardian for an official immunization record for the enrolled child.
- ✓ Document all immunizations listed on the child's official immunization record.
- ✓ During August 1st to December 31st, document the child's influenza vaccine given for that year (for children 6 months to 5 years of age).
- ✓ Your immunization records must be updated yearly.

For a complete list of child care responsibilities and immunization requirements, go [here](#).

Your continued partnership helps prevent disease in our most vulnerable population- children. Each year, the flu causes a significant amount of illness among Philadelphians.

- During the 2017-18 season, there were more than 3,000 confirmed cases of influenza, about 1,500 hospitalizations and 50 deaths in the city.
- Young children <5 years old are one of the groups at highest risk for severe flu.
- Vaccination is the most important tool available to prevent the flu and is routinely recommended for everyone ≥6 months old.

Thank you for all your work supporting the healthy development of young children in Philadelphia!

For more information about influenza and influenza vaccines, please look [here](#).

